
If this book were reduced to its essential message it would state that by attaching a suitable television camera to a Zeiss fundus camera a picture of the fundus can be shown on a television screen and that this picture can be modified by various electronic methods, including image intensification. This technique may replace current methods of ophthalmoscopy and cinematography, and though these as yet give better defined images, the television method should be very useful for the instant demonstration of the fundus to a large number of people. By an incredible feat of expansion, however, this message occupies almost 100 pages.

The first sentence of the foreword, though not written by the author, forewarns of the literary style: “This book is the first systems analysis of medical-engineering efforts (and prospects) toward visualization and eventual computer analysis of a complex biomedical image, the retina”. A second warning comes from the author, who says in the preface “...the information provided in this text is largely of a general nature dealing with the principles of television ophthalmoscopy, and it should be regarded only as a guide”. These ominous premonitions are amply fulfilled.

It is not that much informed hard work has not been involved, but one wonders who will benefit from reading this book. It is surely not written for the experienced ophthalmologist who can hardly need telling that “the (optic) disc area is approximately 1.5 mm. in outside diameter, with a roughly circular shape and reasonably distinct margins in a normal patient” (p. 36). The author does not describe the intriguing entity of a normal patient, but the really obtuse reader is reminded that “the optic disc...is roughly circular with an approximately diameter of 1.5 mm. and having a reasonably distinct border...” (p. 49). On the other hand the book is surely not for the television engineer, as the details given are well within the comprehension of the reviewer.

The second edition of this book may well be useful. With any luck it will describe in detail the instrumentation and the practical results of the apparatus with a clear indication of its superiority over current methods. Ophthalmologists would be advised to wait until this volume appears. In the meantime the author may well have read Gower’s “Plain Words”.


A short exposition of the problems to be dealt with by those who work in this field. Group psychotherapy is given detailed attention.


This book was planned originally by its author, Professor Thiel, as a therapeutic supplement to his Atlas of Eye Diseases. While in previous editions of the Atlas short therapeutic notes were appended to each chapter, it was decided to publish a “Therapy Primer” alongside the 6th edition of the Atlas as a separate book. The manuscript left behind by the author at the time of his death in 1967 was much more than a primer. Besides a thorough description of the disease pictures, complete with history, aetiology, pathology, and differential diagnosis, the book contains guidelines for therapeutic management and examples of treatment, which have stood the test of time in the author’s long career. There is very little to add to these prefatory remarks by Prof. Hollwich, who has brought the book up to date and edited the present edition, except that it is a master work of its kind. The interested reader is not being simply inundated with a multitude of procedures on “a take-it or leave-it” basis, but is given good advice by a wise teacher. At every page one wonders how in so short a space so
much clinical wisdom could be compressed and yet presented in elegant language. This and the excellent layout will make it an easily accessible reference book of every busy (German-speaking) ophthalmologist.


This symposium is a publication of the Transactions of the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology. Despite the multiple authorship the various chapters attain a uniformly high standard of presentation and content, designed to set out the current concepts of the use of drugs in some ocular diseases and the ocular toxic effects of drugs administered systemically.

The opening chapters deal with basic pharmacology and the evaluation of response by clinical trial, and contain some interesting comments on patient reliability in self-administration. With the exception of one chapter on the effects of contact lenses on the corneae of laboratory animals, the authors deal mainly with clinical cases and the side-effects of drugs such as the corticosteroids, antibiotics, and drugs used to control glaucoma.

The book forms an excellent reference volume on therapeutics and toxicology in relation to ocular disease.


This book is designed as a study manual for residents in ophthalmology and the authors have set out to describe systematically the major corneal diseases. The text is supplemented by many monochrome illustrations and a list of references and suggestions for selected reading is provided at the end of each chapter.

There are comprehensive accounts of the corneal manifestations of systemic diseases and of primary corneal degenerations and dystrophies. However, the section on infective corneal diseases is disproportionately short, occupying only 35 pages out of the total 297; this represents a defect of the book which will reduce its value to the residents to whom it is directed.

The text contains virtually no accounts of the treatment of the conditions which are described, but the authors state that they hope to make this the subject of another manual. The divorce of consideration of diagnosis and treatment is regrettable and frustrating to the reader.

The sections into which the text is organized are clearly and logically arranged, although it is difficult to understand the reason for including a specimen proforma for clinical use in the chapter on senile changes. The chapter on the structure of the cornea would be improved by some illustrations.


This new textbook is the cooperative effort of the Hugonniers' ophthalmologist and orthoptist approach. It is for the large part a routine but well presented modern exposition of the subject from the anatomical, physiological, and clinical standpoints. In this last portion there is inevitably an element of personal choice in various aspects of orthoptic and surgical treatment. In all instances, however, the viewpoint adopted is admirably supported by the evidence of the authors' experience and good sense.